



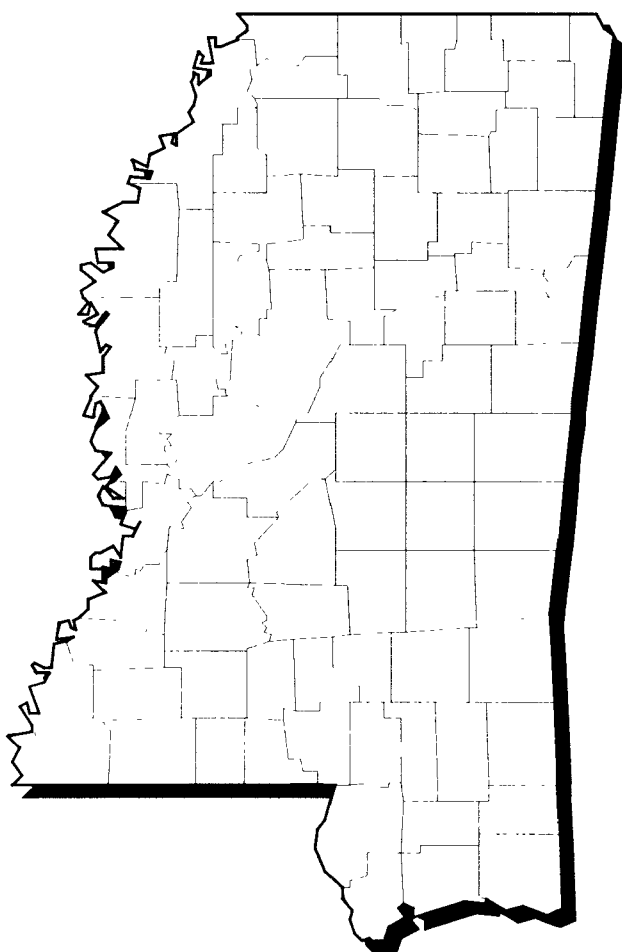
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Solid Waste And
Emergency Response
(5201 G)

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SUPERFUND:

**Progress at
National
Priority
List Sites**



MISSISSIPPI 1995 UPDATE



Printed on Recycled Paper

How to Use the NPL Book

The site fact sheets presented in this book are comprehensive summaries that cover a broad range of information. The fact sheets describe hazardous waste sites on the NPL and their locations, as well as the conditions leading to their listing ("Site Description"). The summaries list the types of contaminants that have been discovered and related threats to public and ecological health ("Threats and Contaminants"). "Cleanup Approach" presents an overview of the cleanup activities completed, underway, or planned. The fact sheets conclude with a brief synopsis of how much progress has been made in protecting public health and the environment. The

summaries also pinpoint other actions, such as legal efforts to involve polluters responsible for site contamination and community concerns.

The fact sheets are arranged in alphabetical order by site name. Because site cleanup is a dynamic and gradual process, all site information is accurate as of the date shown on the bottom of each page. Progress is always being made at NPL sites, and the EPA periodically will update the site fact sheets to reflect recent actions. The following two pages show a generic fact sheet and briefly describe the information under each section.

How Can You Use This State Book?

You can use this book to keep informed about the sites that concern you, particularly ones close to home. The EPA is committed to involving the public in the decision making process associated with hazardous waste cleanup. The Agency solicits input from area residents in communities affected by Superfund sites. Citizens are likely to be affected not only by hazardous site conditions, but also by the remedies that combat them. Site cleanups take many forms and can affect communities in different ways. Local traffic may be rerouted, residents may be relocated, temporary water supplies may be necessary.

Definitive information on a site can help citizens sift through alternatives and make decisions. To make good choices, you must know what the threats are and how the EPA

intends to clean up the site. You must understand the cleanup alternatives being proposed for site cleanup and how residents may be affected by each one. You also need to have some idea of how your community intends to use the site in the future, and you need to know what the community can realistically expect once the cleanup is complete.

The EPA wants to develop cleanup methods that meet community needs, but the Agency only can take local concerns into account if it understands what they are. Information must travel both ways in order for cleanups to be effective and satisfactory. Please take this opportunity to learn more, become involved, and assure that hazardous waste cleanup at "your" site considers your community's concerns.

Provides the dates when the site was Proposed, made Final, and Deleted from the NPL.

Identifies the Federal, State, and/or potentially responsible parties taking responsibility for cleanup actions at the site.

Summarizes the actions to reduce the threats to nearby residents and the surrounding environment and the progress towards cleaning up the site.

Lists the location of the primary site repository. The site repository may include community relations plans, public meeting announcements and minutes, fact sheets, press releases, and other site-related documents.

A

SITE DESCRIPTION

This section describes the location and history of the site. It includes descriptions of the most recent activities and past actions at the site that have contributed to the contamination. Population estimates, land usages, and nearby resources give readers background on the local setting surrounding the site.

B

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

The major chemical categories of site contamination are noted, as well as which environmental resources are affected. Icons representing each of the affected resources (may include air, groundwater, surface water, soil, and contamination to environmentally sensitive areas) are included in the margins of this section. Potential threats to residents and the surrounding environments arising from the site contamination also are described.

C

CLEANUP APPROACH

This section contains a brief overview of how the site is being cleaned up.

D

RESPONSE ACTION STATUS

Specific actions that have been accomplished or will be undertaken to clean up the site are described here. Cleanup activities at NPL sites are divided into separate phases, depending on the complexity and required actions at the site. Two major types of cleanup activities often are described: initial, immediate, or emergency actions to quickly remove or reduce imminent threats to the community and surrounding areas; and long-term remedial phases directed at final cleanup at the site. Each stage of the cleanup strategy is presented in this section of the summary. Icons representing the stage of the cleanup process (initial actions, site investigations, EPA selection of the cleanup remedy, engineering design phase, cleanup activities underway, and completed cleanup) are located in the margin next to each activity description.

E

SITE FACTS

Additional information on activities and events at the site are included in this section. Often details on legal or administrative actions taken by the EPA to achieve site cleanup or other facts pertaining to community involvement with the site cleanup process are reported here.

Guide to the NPL Book Icons

The “icons,” or symbols, accompanying the text allow the reader to see at a glance which environmental resources are affected and the status of cleanup activities at the site.

Icons in the Threats and Contaminants Section



Contaminated *Groundwater* resources in the vicinity or underlying the site. (Groundwater is often used as a drinking water source.)



Contaminated *Surface Water and Sediments* on or near the site. (These include lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers.)



Contaminated *Air* in the vicinity of the site. (Air pollution usually is periodic and involves contaminated dust particles or hazardous gas emissions.)



Contaminated *Soil and Sludges* on or near the site. (This contamination category may include bulk or other surface hazardous wastes found on the site.)



Threatened or contaminated *Environmentally Sensitive Areas* in the vicinity of the site. (Examples include wetlands and coastal areas or critical habitats.)

Icons in the Response Action Status Section



Initial, Immediate, or Emergency Actions have been taken or are underway to eliminate immediate threats at the site.



Site Studies at the site to determine the nature and extent of contamination are planned or underway.



Remedy Selected indicates that site investigations have been concluded, and the EPA has selected a final cleanup remedy for the site or part of the site.



Remedy Design means that engineers are preparing specifications and drawings for the selected cleanup technologies.



Cleanup Ongoing indicates that the selected cleanup remedies for the contaminated site, or part of the site, currently are underway.



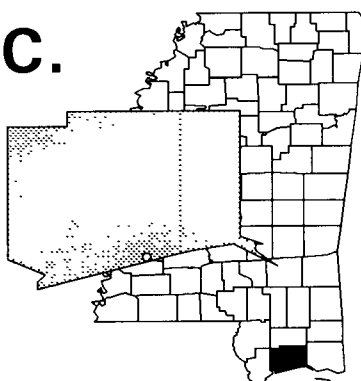
Cleanup Complete shows that all cleanup goals have been achieved for the contaminated site or part of the site.

| EPA ID NUMBER | SITE NAME |
|--------------------------|---|
| MSD008154486 | CHEMFAX, INC. |
| MSD980710941 | FLOWOOD SITE |
| MSD980840045 | NEWSOM BROTHERS/OLD REICHHOLD CHEMICALS |
| MSD056029648 | POTTER CO. |
| MSD981931298 | TEXAS EASTERN KOSCIUSKO COMPRESSOR |
| MSD980601736 | WALCOTTE CHEMICAL CO. WAREHOUSES |

CHEMFAX, INC.

MISSISSIPPI

EPA ID# MSD008154486



EPA REGION 4

Harrison County
Gulfport

Site Description

Chemfax, Inc. is an 11-acre chemical manufacturing site that began operations in 1955. It is located in an industrial section of Harrison County, near Gulfport, Mississippi. Chemfax currently produces petroleum hydrocarbon resins, but the primary operation is a paraffin wax blending process. Condensed cooling water used in this process is stored in an on-site cooling pond with an overflow drain that leads to a drainage ditch. An additional holding pond that was owned by the Alpine Masonite Co. is located adjacent to the Chemfax site. Alpine Masonite used the pond to store excess cooling water discharged from its phenolic resin operation. This pond was reportedly not used by Chemfax to store wastes, but it was covered by a layer of paraffin wax that had melted during a fire and flowed into the pond. This wax, along with wax that periodically appeared in the drainage ditch, can be attributed to several fires that have occurred at Chemfax. The EPA conducted air sampling activities in 1990, which detected high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including benzene, toluene, xylenes, ethyl benzene, and styrene. The concentrations of benzene detected in the air were over 180 times the EPA's health-based benchmarks. Other contaminants also were found in air samples in significantly greater concentrations than upwind samples. Chemfax employs 57 people and Alpine Meadows employs two individuals, all of whom are exposed to air contaminants from the Chemfax site. There are approximately 45,000 people living within 4 miles of the site.

Site Responsibility: The site is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 06/23/93

Threats and Contaminants



Air sampling indicated the presence of VOCs, including benzene, toluene, xylenes, ethyl benzene, and styrene. Breathing this air could be harmful to human health.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status



Initial Actions: The EPA has conducted preliminary air sampling activities at the Chemfax, Inc. site. Additional studies to determine the nature and extent of contamination are being planned.

Environmental Progress



The EPA has determined that the public and the environment are not at immediate risk while additional studies at the Chemfax, Inc. site are being planned.

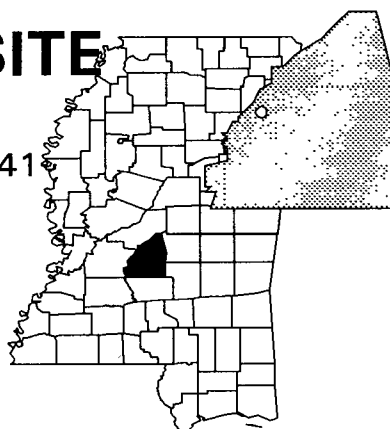
Site Repository



Not yet established.

FLOWOOD SITE MISSISSIPPI

EPA ID# MSD980710941



EPA REGION 4

Rankin County
Flowood

Site Description

The Flowood Site covers approximately 225 acres and consists of wetlands and lowlands of the alluvial plain of the Pearl River. It is separated from the river by levees. Two manufacturing facilities have existed at the site since the 1940s. The northernmost facility has been operating as a corrugated box company since the 1950s. From 1956 to 1983, it was owned by the Continental Can Company and then was purchased by the current owner, the Stone Container Corporation. The second manufacturing facility is owned by the Rival Manufacturing Company and has been used to manufacture stoneware cooking pots since the 1970s. The past owner, the Marmon Group, used the facility from the 1950s until the 1970s to manufacture ceramic tiles. The site consisted of wastewater discharge areas and downstream areas adjacent to the two manufacturing facilities. The immediate area of the site included a borrow pit, a canal used as a discharge area, and other undeveloped land areas adjacent to the plant sites. State officials first became aware of the presence of hazardous substances in the canal during a routine industrial wastewater inspection in 1982. At that time, wastewater that was being discharged by a manufacturing facility directly into the canal contained elevated levels of lead. The State issued an emergency permit for wastewater treatment and subsequently removed the wastewater from the canal later that year. The EPA was notified about the site by the State in 1983. Approximately 940 people live in the Town of Flowood. The site is located in an area of mixed industrial, agricultural, commercial, and residential uses, as well as undeveloped swamp and forest areas.

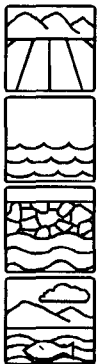
Site Responsibility: This site has been addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 09/08/83

Final Date: 09/21/84

Threats and Contaminants



The soils and sediments located in the lagoon and canal, the soil around the levee, and surface water in nearby Lake Marie and Neely Creek were contaminated with lead from former manufacturing wastes. Groundwater in the immediate vicinity of the waste disposal areas contains low levels of contamination. The potential for exposure at the site included accidental ingestion of, or direct contact with, contaminated soil and groundwater.

Cleanup Approach

Response Action Status



Entire Site: Based on the results of the site investigation completed in 1988, EPA chose the following remedy for site cleanup: groundwater monitoring and the excavation and stabilization/solidification of contaminated soils from the site. The treated soil was placed in the canal and capped as necessary. As the cleanup effort proceeded, EPA found a greater amount of contaminated soil to be solidified, thus requiring more space for disposal. EPA approved a revised design in 1991 that accommodated this larger amount of soil. Cleanup began in 1992 and was completed in 1993. Deed restrictions are in place to keep the solidified contaminants from being disturbed. EPA will continue monitoring the groundwater for several years to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup actions.

Site Facts: In 1984, EPA sent a Special Notice to the parties potentially responsible for site contamination to conduct the investigation and to identify possible cleanup alternatives. EPA and the Marmon Group signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) in 1986 and, in 1989, the Marmon Group entered into a Consent Decree and completed the design and cleanup under EPA direction. The Marmon Group continues to be responsible for monitoring of the groundwater.

Environmental Progress



All cleanup at the site is complete. The excavation and treatment of contaminated soils has reduced threats to the public and the environment from the Flowood Site. Additional monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that the remedy remains protective. EPA expects to propose the site for deletion from the NPL in 1995.

Site Repository



Pearl Public Library, 3470 Highway 80, East Pearl, MS 39208

NEWSOM BROTHERS/ OLD REICHHOLD CHEMICALS, INC MISSISSIPPI

EPA ID# MSD980840045



EPA REGION 4

Marion County
Columbia

Site Description

The 81-acre Newsom Brothers/Old Reichhold Chemicals, Inc. site presently includes several storage tanks, three holding ponds, a concrete drainage system, and several buildings in the former processing areas. The site was used by several owners from the 1930s through 1974 as a sawmill and for the production of turpentine, resins, and other wood derivatives. From 1975 to 1977, Reichhold Chemicals, Inc. manufactured, among other things, wood preserving compounds made from pentachlorophenol (PCP) mixed with diesel oil. In 1976, the Mississippi Air and Water Pollution Control Commission found that Reichhold was discharging wastewater containing phenols, oil, and grease into a nearby stream. Reichhold continued operations on the property until 1977, when an explosion and fire destroyed much of the processing facility. The company subsequently abandoned the site. Reichhold reportedly buried many drums containing waste materials in five separate areas of the site. In 1980 and 1981, ownership of the site was transferred, but Reichhold Chemicals regained ownership of the property in 1988. The site borders the southern end of the heavily urbanized area of Columbia. This urban residential area has a population of approximately 12,000. The primary land use in the surrounding area is for agriculture. Public water supply wells are within 1/4 mile of the site and less than 100 feet deep.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/15/84

Final Date: 06/10/86

Threats and Contaminants



The sediments are contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from former process wastes. The soil is contaminated with VOCs and PAHs. Accidental ingestion or direct contact with contaminated soil, pond sediments, and creeks are potential health hazards. Runoff from the site may endanger aquatic life in the nearby Pearl River.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: initial actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status



Initial Actions: In 1984, the EPA removed 600 drums from the site. Two on-site ponds were drained, and the water was treated and discharged through a local treatment facility. One pond was filled with soil. Additional removal activities occurred between 1987 and 1988, when approximately 3,900 buried drums and 1,900 tons of contaminated soil were excavated and removed from the site. During this period, 775 individuals were temporarily relocated.



Entire Site: The cleanup methods selected by the EPA for this site include: removing the black, tar-like waste material to the off-site area and treating it through thermal destruction; excavating and removing the contaminated soils and sediments from the site for disposal at a federally approved facility; and filling and capping the on-site ponds and recontouring the land to prevent the runoff and collection of surface water. No action was planned for groundwater cleanup; however, monitoring will continue both on and off site for five years. Designs of the final portions of the selected remedy were completed in mid-1993. Some cleanup actions began in 1991, led by the potentially responsible parties. In late 1994, during the final stages of cleanup, EPA discovered about 100 drums of contaminated wastes in the area of the North Pond. EPA is currently investigating this area to determine if the underlying groundwater is contaminated. Additional cleanup efforts may be required, based on the results of this investigation.

Environmental Progress



The initial drum and contaminated soil removal actions described above have reduced the potential for exposure to hazardous substances. The initial portion of the cleanup involved cleaning the on-site drainage areas and removing materials contaminated with asbestos. While the potentially responsible parties continue removing contaminated soils and tar-like material from the site, EPA is investigating possible groundwater contamination in the North Pond area.

Site Repository

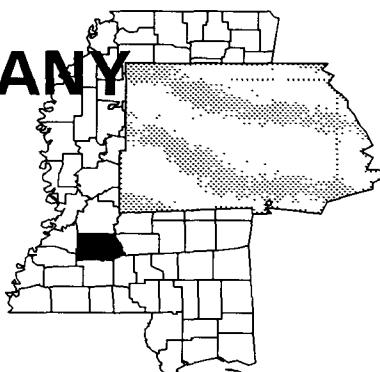


South Mississippi Regional Library, 900 Broad Street, Columbia, MS 39429

POTTER COMPANY

MISSISSIPPI

EPA ID# MSD056029648



EPA REGION 4

Copiah County
Wesson

Site Description

The Potter Co. site is a 12-acre property located in Wesson, about 43 miles southwest of Jackson. Beginning in 1953, Potter Co. manufactured electrical components, including electromagnetic interference filters and capacitors, at the plant. In 1986, Varian Associates, Inc. purchased Potter Co.'s parent company, Pulse Engineering, Inc. At the time of the purchase, plant employees expressed concern over past waste-handling practices at the facility. When the facility was in operation, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) oils used in capacitors were cleaned from process equipment with solvents. The solvents and oils were dumped onto the ground outside the manufacturing buildings. In response to the employees' concerns, Potter initiated soil sampling on site in early 1986. In the on-site soils, Potter found volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily trichloroethene (TCE) and other process-equipment cleaning solvents, and PCBs. Potter took additional samples later in 1986 and found PCBs in soils in drainage ditches and on adjacent residential property. Potter also found VOCs and PCBs in several monitoring wells. In response to this finding, the Mississippi Bureau of Pollution Control sampled municipal wells southeast of the site and found VOCs present. The City of Wesson closed the contaminated wells and, in June 1989, installed new wells about 1 mile southeast of the original wells. About 1,500 people obtain drinking water from municipal wells within 4 miles of the site. The site is located in an area that is both residential and agricultural.

Site Responsibility: The site is being addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible party actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 05/10/93

Threats and Contaminants



Groundwater is contaminated with TCE and PCBs. On-site soil, particularly in the drainage ditches, and soil at an adjacent property are contaminated with PCBs. Soil also is contaminated with TCE and other VOCs.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: initial actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on the cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status



Initial Actions: In mid-1989, the City of Wesson closed two municipal wells located about 1,000 feet southeast of the site. The City also installed new municipal wells at that time. In late 1987, Potter installed a synthetic liner to contain contaminated soil in one of the plant drainage ditches, and placed soil from the most heavily contaminated areas of the adjacent property on a roll-off container and covered the soil with a tarp. In 1988 and 1989, Potter conducted additional studies to characterize the extent of PCB contamination in surface soils and to determine the extent of the TCE plume in the groundwater.



Entire Site: The EPA is planning to initiate a full-scale investigation of the nature and extent of contamination at the site.

Site Facts: In May 1986, the State of Missouri ordered Potter to determine the extent of PCB contamination in soils, develop a plan to remove the contaminated soils, and install a monitoring well.

Environmental Progress



By opening additional municipal wells, the City of Wesson reduced the immediate threats posed by contaminants at the Potter Co. site. Furthermore, the response to soil contamination at the adjacent property has been an important first step in controlling that threat. Once a full-scale investigation of the nature and extent of the contamination is completed, remedies will be selected for final site cleanup.

Site Repository



TEXAS EASTERN KOSCIUSKO COMPRESSOR STATION MISSISSIPPI

EPA ID# MSD981931298



EPA REGION 4
Attala County
5 miles south of Kosciusko

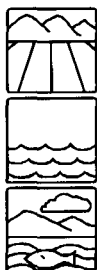
Site Description

The Texas Eastern Kosciusko Compressor Station site covers about 98 acres and is located approximately five miles southeast of Kosciusko. Little Conehoma Creek borders the site to the north and east. Approximately 20 acres of the site are developed with roads, buildings, and mechanical structures related to the operation of the compressor station. The remainder of the property is undeveloped forest and open field areas. The site is one of a number of compressor stations located along the Texas Eastern Pipeline System, which runs from Texas to New Jersey. High-speed, high-pressure turbines were installed at compressor stations along this pipeline system in the late 1950s. Oil containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) was used as a lubricant and coolant in the gas-fired turbines. During routine operation, occasional bearing or seal failures allowed oil to leak into the pipeline. The pipeline was cleared occasionally, removing liquids and condensate. This residue from the pipeline was deposited in a pit approximately 600 feet west of the compressor buildings. PCB lubricating and cooling oil use was discontinued at the site in 1979. Since then, vented oil, liquids, and condensate have been collected at the compressor station and disposed of off site. No drinking water is obtained from surface waters downstream from the Texas Eastern Kosciusko site. Drinking water from the area is drawn from private wells and the City of Kosciusko water system. Runoff from the site is directed northward into a detention ditch adjacent to the Little Conehoma Creek. This ditch flows for about 100 feet into the Little Conehoma Creek, which flows west into Conehoma Creek, and then enters the Yockanookany River, which is sometimes called Old River Lake. Little Conehoma Creek, Conehoma Creek, and Yockanookany River are used for recreational fishing. Primary species of fish harvested include largemouth bass, yellow bullhead, and channel catfish. Forested wetlands are located along the entire length of surface water, throughout the floodplain for this river system.

Site Responsibility: The site is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 08/23/94

Threats and Contaminants



In 1987, the EPA collected soil samples from the pit area that revealed PCB contamination. Sediment samples taken from surface waters downstream from the site also indicated PCB contamination. Subsequent sampling in these surface waters has confirmed PCB contamination of fish tissue. Touching or ingesting contaminated soils, surface water, or fish could have adverse health effects. The creeks and rivers adjacent to the site are used for recreational fishing. Forested wetlands are located throughout the floodplain of the adjacent river system.

Cleanup Approach

This site will be addressed through a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleaning up the entire site.

Response Action Status



Entire Site: The EPA is planning site-wide investigations of the nature and extent of contamination at the site. Upon completion of these studies, final cleanup remedies will be selected.

Environmental Progress



The EPA has determined that the site poses no immediate threats to human health or the environment as it plans site-wide studies.

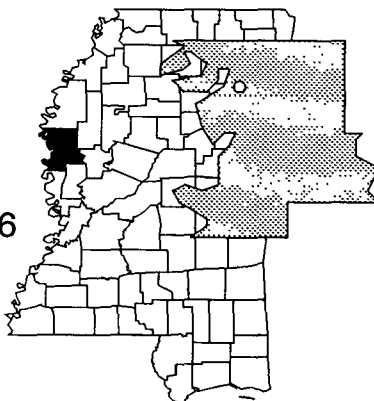
Site Repository



Not yet established.

WALCOTTE CHEMICAL MISSISSIPPI

EPA ID# MSD980601736



EPA REGION 4

Washington County
Greenville

Other Names:
**Walcotte Chemical
Community Warehouse**

Site Description

The 1-acre Walcotte Chemical site is a former warehouse that operated from 1953 to the early 1960s. Chemicals used in producing fertilizer were stored in drums on the site until the early 1960s. The drums deteriorated to the point where the partially exposed chemicals in them could have exploded or started a fire. Groundwater near the site is used for residential, industrial, and irrigation purposes. Approximately 35,000 people live within 3 miles of the site. The site is located in an urban, residential, and business district. The nearest home is within 60 feet of the site. The site is located near Lake Ferguson, connected to the Mississippi River, which is used by area residents for recreational purposes.

Site Responsibility: This site was addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Deleted Date: 12/30/82

Threats and Contaminants



Drummed waste contaminants included formic acid, various pesticides, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as toluene. The site is located in a flood plain of the Mississippi River, which could have resulted in the potential for contaminants to move through the surface water into the drinking water and surface soils. However, these risks were lessened by the series of levees that protect the city from periodic river flooding.

Cleanup Approach

Response Action Status



Entire Site: The initial activities included sampling the drums to verify their contents in 1981. Due to the explosive nature of the drummed chemical wastes, area residents temporarily were evacuated, upon request of the Mississippi Department of Natural Resources, before initial cleanup activities occurred. After the parties potentially responsible for the site contamination voluntarily agreed to clean up the site, the EPA monitored their removal of the drummed wastes. The drums were staged, repacked, and transported to an EPA-certified landfill in 1982. These actions eliminated the threats caused by site contamination, effectively cleaning up the site. The EPA, in conjunction with the State of Mississippi, determined that the site was safe for public health and the environment, and the site was deleted from the NPL in 1982.

Site Facts: The Walcotte Chemical site was placed on the Interim Priorities List in October 1981. The EPA sent Notice Letters to the parties potentially responsible for the site contamination, giving them the option to participate in the cleanup actions. Illinois Central Railroad, which had acquired ownership of the property, voluntarily removed the drums from the site.

Environmental Progress



All cleanup activities have been completed at the Walcotte Chemical site. Following monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup, the EPA and the State determined that the site is now safe for nearby residents and the environment. The site was deleted from the NPL in 1982.